

Message Text

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16

ORIGIN AF-18

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DRAFTED BY TEXT PROVIDED BY WHITE HOUSE

APPROVED BY AF/W:JLLOUGHRAN

AF-AMB MULCAHY

S/S-S - MRS. DENHAM

S/S - WHLUERS

S/S-S - DKINNEY

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R 112004Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS STATE 199605

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO GENERAL GOWON

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO GENERAL GOWON, IN RESPONSE TO MESSAGE FROM GOWON TO PRESIDENT FORD. QUOTE
DEAR GENERAL GOWON: I DEEPLY APPRECIATE YOUR MESSAGE OF GOOD WISHES AS I ASSUME MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. YOU HAVE MY PERSONAL ASSURANCE THAT MY ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE THE SOLID AND FRIENDLY TIES THAT EXIST BETWEEN NIGERIA AND THE UNITED STATES. I SHARE YOUR CONFIDENCE THAT THOSE TIES, BASED ON A WIDE RANGE OF MUTUAL INTERESTS, WILL GROW EVEN STRONGER IN THE YEARS AHEAD. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING TOGETHER WITH YOU AND OUR OTHER COLLEAGUES TOWARD THIS END. PARAGRAPH. I HOPE THAT YOU AND I CAN ADD THE EXTRA DIMENSION OF PERSONAL CONTACT TO OUR BILATERAL TIES AND TO OUR MUTUAL EFFORTS IN PURSUIT OF THE MAJOR GOALS THAT WE SHARE. PARAGRAPH. WITH BEST WISHES. SINCERELY, GERALD R. FORD. UNQUOTE.

2. NEITHER DEPARTMENT NOR WHITE HOUSE PLANS TO RELEASE
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TEXT, BUT NO OBJECTION TO RELEASE BY FMG.

3. FYI: FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS
TO PRESIDENT FORD FROM GENERAL GOWON DELIVERED BY NIGERIAN
EMBASSY DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON 9 AUGUST:

QUOTE MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR ASSUMPTION
OF THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA, PERMIT ME TO CONVEY TO YOU ON BEHALF OF THE
GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
DEEP AND SINCERE FELICITATIONS. I EXTEND TO YOU OUR
VERY GOOD WISHES AS YOU FACE THE CHALLENGES OF YOUR NEW
OFFICE. PARAGRAPH. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN LOOK FOR-
WARD TO THE FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF THE CLOSE AND CORDIAL
TIES OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH BIND OUR TWO COUNTRIES TOGETHER
AND THAT THE UNDERSTANDING, RESPECT AND CO-OPERATION
WHICH HAVE ALWAYS INSPIRED THESE RELATIONS WILL BE EN-
HANCED AND DEEPENED IN THE YEARS AHEAD TO THE MUTUAL
BENEFIT OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES. SIGNED GENERAL YAKUBU
GOWON, HEAD OF THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT, COMMANDER-
IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF NIGERIA. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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To: LAGOS
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